

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03255 150456Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-13 /082 W
-----150503Z 072177 /12

R 150425Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8255
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3255

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, IZ, KU
SUBJECT: NEXT STAGE OF IRAQI-KUWAITI BORDER TALKS

REF: A. DOHA 650, B. MANAMA 942, C. JIDDA 4187

1. KUWAIT PRESS HAS FOR SOME DAYS REPORTED A PENDING
OFFICIAL VISIT IN LATE JUNE TO IRAQ BY KUWAITI
DEF MIN, SHEIKH SA'AD AL-ABDULLAH, TO UNDERTAKE
BILATERAL TALKS ON BORDER MATTERS. ONE PRESS
REPORT SAYS THE TALKS WILL BEGIN JUNE 20
AND THAT KUWAITI CIRCLES ARE OPTIMISTIC ON THE
POSSIBILITY OF ARRIVING AT SOLUTIONS TO BORDER
ISSUES BECAUSE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL IRAQI BAATH PARTY
DECISION TO GET TALKS UNDERWAY.

2. COMMENT: WE ARE SKEPTICAL ABOUT ANY IMAGINED
IRAQI TENDENCY TO "GIVE" ON BORDER ISSUES -- THE
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KUWAITI PRESS IS USUALLY OVER OPTIMISTIC ON THE
CHANGES FOR REAL PROGRESS IN SOLVING SUCH ISSUES.
NEVERTHELESS THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ IS
FEELING PRESSURES. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT THE
GULF STATES ARE OPENLY STANDING WITH KUWAIT ON THIS
MATTER AND ARE CONDITIONING THEIR OWN ACQUIESCENCE
IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH IRAQ (AS THE GOI

APPARENTLY WANTS NOW) UPON ITS PROGRESS WITH THE
KUWAITI BORDER MATTER. HIGH BAHRAINI AND QATARI
OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD OUR EMBASSIES THAT IMPROVEMENT
OF THEIR RESPECTIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH IRAQ
DEPENDS UPON PROGRESS IN THE DISPUTE (REFTELS),
AND A VISITING IRANIAN DIPLOMAT RECENTLY TOLD
EMBOFF THAT UAE OFFICIALS LIKEWISE LAID IT ON THE
LINE TO THE IRAQIS. WE ALSO NOTE THAT THE SAUDIS
APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN MAKING CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS
WITH THE IRAQIS IN THEIR OWN BORDER
NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT SHOW AN IRAQI
INCLINATION TO MEND BORDER FENCES.
MAESTRONE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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